GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4573
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
PRODUCTION OF PULSES
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of best efforts for increasing the production of pulses in the country it has been possible to obtain only 1.2 crore tonnes yield from 2.2 crore hectares land during the last fifteen years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for increasing the production of pulses and the average productivity rate in regard thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) Yes, Sir. While the total production of pulses varied from 1.11 crore tonnes to 1.49 crore tonnes, the area under pulses cultivation varied from 2.04 crore hectares to 2.47 crore hectares during trie period 1989-90 to 2003-04.

(b) The major reasons for low production and productivity in respect of pules lie in inadequate irrigation as pulses are mainly grown in rainfed areas and non availability of high yielding seeds due to the fact that no break through in pulses production technology could be made sc far.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize` (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, Production of Foundation seed, Production of certified seed, Crash Programme for quality seed production, Distribution of Certified seed, Distribution of Minikit, Infrastructure Development, Block Demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management etc. Apart from this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is making efforts to develop improved varieties of pulses with high yield potential and resistance to important diseases, such as, wilt in chickpea and pigeon pea, and Yellow Mosaic Virus in mungbean. Integrated pest management technology has been developed for control of pests in chickpea and pigeon pea.